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SUBJECT: MORE OF THE SAME IN NEW GOZ CABINET

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Classified By: Charge d'Affaires a.i. Eric T. Schultz under Section 1.4
b/d

Summary

1. (C) President Mugabe on April 15 announced a new, expanded cabinet, which he said was geared to turn around Zimbabwe's economy. However, most members of the new Cabinet are holdovers from the previous one, including on the economic front, although some Ministers have shifted portfolios. The few new faces previously held other positions in the GOZ. We do not expect to see any new policy initiatives, either foreign or domestic, from this cabinet, most of whom appear to have been chosen for their lock-step loyalty to Mugabe. End Summary.

Priority on Patronage, Loyalty

2. (SBU) The addition of four new ministries and eight new deputy minister slots represents an expansion of Mugabe's patronage system, this despite severe budget constraints. Some of the new ministries will exist mostly on paper; the Ministry of Anti-Monopolies and Anti-Corruption and the Ministry of Policy Implementation created in last year's cabinet reshuffle, for example, still have no substantial staff or budget. Many appointees are non-constituency MPs who had lost recent parliamentary races) an apparent violation of Mugabe's pledge last year that only elected MPs could "earn" cabinet slots.

3. (C) The new appointments reinforce the view that lock-step loyalty to Mugabe remains the principal criterion for job security and advancement in the GOZ. Like the recently named governors and non-constituency MPs (reftel), the "new" ministers are drawn largely from the ZANU-PF "Old Guard" or Mugabe's Zezuru ethnic group; new faces among the deputy ministers are not independent minded. The Young Turks and the Karanga ethnic group, the losers in last December's ZANU-PF power struggle, were handed few bones in the appointments and their disaffection will likely continue.

Some New Appointments; But Policy Changes Unlikely

4. (C) Among the more worrisome appointments is Nicholas Goche, former Minister of State for National Security, who takes over as Minister of Public Service, a position from which he is expected to increase pressure on Zimbabwe's civil society and especially its independent labor union, ZCTU. Less clear is the impact of Simbarashe Mumbengegwi, former Ambassador to the U.K., as the new Minister of Foreign Affairs and former UN Permrep Tichaona Jokonya as the new Minister of Information and Publicity. Mumbengegwi and Jokonya may present a softer public edge, especially to the West and especially in comparison to their voluble predecessors, but neither is expected to pursue any new initiatives in their domains.

5. (C) The expanded economic "team" is a particularly disappointing lot. Acting Minister of Finance (and former Minister of Education) Herbert Murerwa was finally, officially (and unfortunately) appointed to the Finance post. The academic Murerwa has never exhibited any initiative or creativity in his earlier stints as Finance Minister and will clearly continue to play second fiddle to Reserve Bank Governor Gideon Gono. Controversial Agricultural Minister Made (a principal architect of land reform) held his position despite rumors that he would be sacked. We do not expect to see any liberalization of the economy in the short-term. (N.B. Gono had scheduled a press conference for today to announce a devaluation of the Zim dollar, but postponed the announcement, reportedly because he is having trouble getting

agreement from Mugabe on the extent of the devaluation.)

16. (C) Among the other more notable appointments was sidelined former Speaker of Parliament Emmerson Mnangagwa as Minister for Rural Housing and Social Amenities, one of four new cabinet ministerial positions. The appointment appears to be further evidence of Mnangagwa,s fall from grace. It is a very small consolation prize for someone considered Mugabe,s likely heir apparent up until December.

Cabinet List

17. (U) The following is the full list of the new cabinet:

Minister of Foreign Affairs - Simbarashe Mumbengwgi
Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education) Stan Mudenge
Minister of Information and Publicity) Tichaona Jokonya
Minister of Energy and Power Development) Michael Nyambuya
Minister of Industry and International Trade) Obert Mpofu
Minister of State for Water Resources and Infrastructural Development) Munacho Mutezo
Minister of Rural Housing and Social Amenities (New Ministry)
) Emmerson Mnangagwa
Minister of Women Affairs, Gender, and Community Development
) Oppah Muchinguri
Minister of State for National Security) Didymus Mutasa
Minister of Public Service, Labor, and Social Welfare)
Nicholas Goche
Minister of State Enterprises, Anti-Monopolies, and
Anti-Corruption) Paul Mangwana
Minister of Economic Development (New Ministry)) Rugare
Gumbo
Minister of Finance) Herbert Murerwa
Minister of State for Special Affairs Responsible for Land
and Resettlement Program) Flora Bhuka
Minister of Defense) Sydney Sekeramayi
Minister of Education, Sports, and Culture) Aeneas
Chigwedere
Minister of Agriculture) Joseph Made
Minister of Home Affairs) Kembo Mohadi
Minister of Environment and Tourism) Francis Nhema
Minister of Local Government, Public Works, and Urban
Development) Ignatius Chombo
Minister of Justice, Legal, and Parliamentary Affairs)
Patrick Chinamasa
Minister of Transport and Communications) Chris Mushohwe
Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development)
Sithembiso Nyoni
Minister without Portfolio) Elliot Manyika
Minister of Youth Development and Employment Creation)
Ambrose Mutinhiri
Minister of Health and Child Welfare) David Parirenyatwa
Minister of Science and Technology) Olivia Muchena
Minister of Policy Implementation) Webster Shamu
Minister of Indigenization and Empowerment) Josiah
Tungamirai
Deputy Minister of Information & Publicity - Bright Matonga
Deputy Minister of Agriculture - Sylvester Nguni
Deputy Minister Rural Housing & Social Amenities - Joel
Biggie Matiza
Deputy Minister of Industry & International Trade - Phineas
Chihota
Deputy Minister of Health & Child Welfare - Dr Edwin Muguti

Deputy Minister of Economic Development - Dr Samuel Undenge

Deputy Minister of Finance - David Chapfika

Deputy Minister of Education, Sports & Culture - Isaiah Shumba

Deputy Minister of Home Affairs - Rueben Marumahoko

Deputy Minister of Environment & Tourism - Andrew Langa

Deputy Minister of Local Government, Public Works & Urban Development - Morris Sakabuya

Deputy Minister of Transport & Communications -Hubert Nyanhongo

Deputy Minister of Small & Medium Enterprises Development - Kenneth Mutiwekuziva

Deputy Minister of Youth Development & Employment Creation - Saviour Kasukuwere

Deputy Minister of Mines & Mining - Tinos Rusere

Deputy Minister of Science & Technology - Patrick Zhuwao

Deputy Minister of Women's Affairs, Gender & Community Development - Abigail Damasane

SCHULTZ